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THE GULL
MONTHLY BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC

Volume 47 Berkeley, Calif. December 1965 Number 12

SEE BROOKS RANGE, ALASKA, ON DECEMBER 9

Miss Charlotte Mauk, Assistant Secretary of the Sierra Club, will give a talk, illustrated with her slides, on the Brooks Range, Alaska, at the regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society at **7:30 p.m., Thursday, December 9,** at the First Unitarian Church in San Francisco, Franklin and Geary Sts.

The evening will start with a social hour at 6 p.m. and **dinner at 6:30** ($1.50 per person). All profit goes to the Canyon Ranch Fund. Volunteers to help set or clear the tables will be welcome. For dinner reservations please call or write the following **before Wednesday, December 8:** Vi Drescher, 1585-8th Ave., S.F. 22 (LO 6-0742) or Bonnie Smith, 555 Dewey Blvd., S.F. 16 (OV 1-7635).— RICHARD and MARY LEINBACH, *Program Co-Chairmen.*

CHRISTMAS COUNT

Phil Smith has volunteered to organize our Oakland area Christmas count, **Sunday, December 26.** He needs many volunteers to cover the area. Please write or phone him immediately so he can plan the assignments:— Mr. Loris P. Smith, 2560-61st Ave., Oakland (569-9451). Garden feeder counts will also help. Admiral and Mrs. R. Morgan Watt, Jr. of 5927 Chelton Dr., Oakland, have offered to host the potluck dinner. Details will be given to counters.

The Tomales Bay, Marin County, Christmas count will be held Saturday, January 1, under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate and Marin Audubon societies. If you can participate, please call Ted Chase, 841-1893 (Berkeley), as soon as possible. Mrs. Grace Miller of Inverness will be hostess for the counters at the end of the day.

FIELD TRIPS FOR DECEMBER

Saturday, December 4, to Conn Lake in Napa County. This lake is a favorite wintering spot for wood ducks. Whistling swan, Canada goose, gadwall, redhead and ring-necked ducks are often spotted. Red-shouldered hawk is present this time of year. Meet at the stone bridge about one mile northeast of Napa on the Silverado Trail at **9 a.m.** Bring telescope, binoculars, lunch and warm clothing. Leader, Jack L. Mann, 357-2331.

Sunday, December 19, to San Francisco Bay Salt Marsh Sanctuary near Newark to search for clapper, Virginia, sora and black rails. Mr. John Larson, Jr., Audubon Warden, has kindly arranged for our admittance. His assistant, Mr. Elwood Bunting, will guide the group to the sanctuary. Bring waterproof footwear, knapsack lunch, scope and binoculars. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the Newark post office, 6250 Thornton Ave. Leader, Ted Chandik, phone 851-0354 (Woodside).— MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman.*

NEW EFFORT TO SAVE BAY FARM ISLAND

Conservation efforts of the Alameda Women's Civic Affairs Committee have been merged into similar efforts of the Alameda Conservation Association (ACA). The association was incorporated in August under officers headed by Ralph W. Jones, landscape architect. Funds accumulated for the fight to save Bay Farm Island have been transfered to the new organization.

The ACA has recently instituted court action against the City of Alameda, Reclamation District 2105, and Shoreline Properties, Inc. Results of this action should be of inestimable value in resolving the conflicts underlying the entire effort to protect the public's interests in the Bay and to control its future development.

ACA is inviting all organizations and persons interested in Bay conservation to join in this critical action. Money is needed, and it is hoped that response to the need will be widespread and generous. Please send contributions to Alameda Conservation Association, Box 341, Alameda.

Membership brochures are being widely distributed. If you would like one, call any of the following telephone numbers: 523-8368; 523-0675; 522-0941; 523-2900. **The situation requires prompt action.** — ELSIE B. ROEMER, *Executive Committee,* ACA.

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY

The new Point Reyes Bird Observatory — the first of its kind in North America — has been recording some unusual migrants, including a tree sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) that was banded on October 11 and the black-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythropthalmus*) on September 22.

Mr. W. T. Van Velzen, the Resident Biologist, is carrying out a continuous banding program with the assistance of volunteer banders. He would also appreciate having volunteers for other chores, such as typing banding records, helping with clerical work, housecleaning and cooking.

The present building includes office, laboratory and dormitory space. The Observatory is developing a demonstration program in cooperation with the National Park Service to bring to the public an awareness and appreciation of wildlife in general and birds in particular. Recovery of birds banded at Point Reyes over the years will help answer some vital questions about the direction, timing, magnitude and manner of bird migration.

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory is a non-profit organization that

depends on memberships and private contributions for support. Members are welcome to visit the Observatory. Limited sleeping and cooking facilities are available at cost to members participating in the Observatory program or conducting appropriate ornithological studies. A newsletter and annual report will keep members in touch with the Observatory activities.

Here is an idea for a unique Christmas or birthday gift for your Audubon friends and relatives: — A membership in the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Annual membership is $5.00 and all memberships and donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. The mailing address is Star Route — Lighthouse Road, Inverness, Calif. 94937.

BLACK RAIL—FIRST BIRD ON MR. BRADY'S LIFE LIST

Many months ago Mr. Gerard Brady, owner of the Inverness Motel, reported seeing a black rail around his property. Some of us checked the area periodically but to no avail. On October 26 and 27 Mr. Brady saw the rail again, and noted that on the second day it appeared about the same time in the morning. He then called Peter Veitch of Orinda, who had been a guest in the motel several days earlier. Peter returned immediately to Inverness and, together with Mr. Brady, saw the black rail the following morning, October 28, in the same spot and about the same time that it had been seen on the two previous days. Peter called us on Friday and we saw the rail the following morning. Since then dozens of birders, *thanks to Mr. Brady*, have added the black rail to their life lists.

We want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Brady for all the kindness they have shown Audubon members and friends. — MRS. VALERIA DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman.*

"NORTHWEST TO ALASKA" ON JANUARY 3

It's time to mark your 1966 calendar for the next Audubon Wildlife Film. On Monday, January 3, Walter H. Berlet will bring his unusual color film, "Northwest to Alaska," to the Berkeley Little Theatre. The film opens with aerial views of Alaskan glaciers and the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea. In the summer months 80% of the world's fur seals gather here.

Riding down the Yukon River in a rubber raft, Mr. Berlet stopped to explore the precipitous habitat of the mountain goat and dall sheep and to photograph the spectacular harlequin duck in the wild river waters. Alaska's wetlands make it the greatest breeding ground in North America. Gulls, grebes, ducks, and geese nest there in abundance. Many different birds, including the Lapland longspur, horned lark, long-tailed jaeger, mew gull, the Alaskan golden plover, all three varieties of ptarmigan, and some squabbling snipes are filmed in close-up sequences characteristic of Walter Berlet's skill and talent. Porcupines, moose, wolves, grizzlies, and wolverine are a few of the mammals represented. The climax of the film is an unforgettable migration of thousands of caribou.

Walter Berlet was born in western Ohio and graduated from Ohio State University. In Casper, Wyoming, he became established in retail

business. Convinced that motion pictures and television offer one of the best means for teaching conservation values, he has recently left his retail business to spend his full time producing films for television and lectures. For the last three years he has narrated and produced a weekly television show, and has recently completed a wildlife film for the DuPont Company entitled "Wildlife of the 49th State." Walter Berlet has also photographed wildlife in Mexico, Canada, Africa and Europe. He is a member of National Audubon Society, Canadian Audubon Society, Photographic Society of America, Wyoming Audubon Club, Sierra Club, and Wilderness Society. He invented the Berco Lens Attachment and worked with different manufacturers on special telephoto lenses.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

At Bodega Head on September 5 Hans Meinhardt observed a prarie warbler (*Dendroica discolor*).

A tree sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) was banded at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory on October 11.

Ted Chandik, Val and Bob DaCosta, and Russell Greenberg found a vesper sparrow on the road to Vallejo October 10.

Val DaCosta's interesting report on Rodeo Lagoon: — While scouting Rodeo Lagoon with Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Montgomery of Sequoia Audubon on October 28, I found two immature swamp sparrows (*Melospiza georgiana*). On November 2 Bob and I found two palm warblers near the small lagoon. One of them had a partial albino tail. Betty Lennon of Sausalito saw them later that day. The following day a house wren appeared while the Davies, Vi Homem and I were having lunch at the small lagoon. On November 7 I saw three hooded mergansers on the large lagoon, and on November 9 Betty Lennon and I observed an oldsquaw, a harlequin duck, an Arctic loon and a blue-gray gnatcatcher at Rodeo Lagoon.

Jane Dang found a Virginia rail in Tilden Park near the Jewel Lake trail on October 22. On October 30 and 31 in Oakland a slate-colored junco came to the Homems' bird feeder, where he was easy to observe from ten feet away.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Tamalpais — On September 25 an energetic group of hiking birders met on the north slope of Mt. Tamalpais. The weather was excellent and we had about a 5-mile hike around Lake Bon Tempe and Lagunitas. We first crossed a chaparral area finding quail, mourning dove, wrentits, bluebirds, Bewick's wren, bushtits, lark, savannah and golden-crowned sparrows. On the shores of Alpine Lake and Bon Tempe we found greater yellowlegs, double-crested cormorants, western gulls, great blue herons, a kingfisher, and spotted sandpiper. In the oak trees around the lakes were hairy and acorn woodpeckers, Townsend's, hermit, and Audubon's warb-

lers, ruby-crowned kinglets, lesser goldfinch, brown creeper and many others. The best find was an osprey perched on top of a tree overlooking Lagunitas – master of all he surveyed. Total number of species: 45.

– PATRICIA TRIGGS, *Leader*

Point Reyes Peninsula – An estimated 70 birders descended on the Point Reyes Peninsula on October 23, traveling in flocks of 2 to 50 or more. On Golden Gate's morning walk into Bear Valley and to the Oyster Plant all of the group had close views of some of our common migrants and wintering birds: Bonaparte's gull, Say's phoebe, Townsend's warbler, among others. The day was unusually hot. The "windiest and foggiest lighthouse on the Pacific Coast" baked in a temperature of 98°F! Nevertheless, true to its reputation, the lighthouse sported a "rare" bird; at the bottom of the 304 steps a blackpoll warbler was identified by the combined experts of Golden Gate Audubon Society and the Redwood Regional Ornithological Society. For most of us, however, landbirds were invisible – and inaudible – during much of this hot day. Along the ocean, the many flocks of scoters (surf and white-winged) skirting along the surf on their southward migration were of interest, and it is always fun to show to a visitor an armada of white pelicans coming in for a landing on Drake's Estero. In all 131 species were seen or heard during the day. – MARIE L. MANS, *Leader* & *Historian.*

Orinda and San Pablo Reservoir – November 6 was a warm, sunny day in Orinda. Many oaks were filled with Audubon's warblers, plus a few myrtle warblers and ruby-crowned kinglets. One Orinda garden was decorated with a red-breasted sapsucker who continued his tree-tapping for several minutes just above a large group of birders. The field trip leader, Dr. Curl, and several other members set up telescopes to scan the San Pablo Reservoir and found double-crested cormorants, great blue heron, Canada geese, mallards, green-winged teal, wood ducks, widgeon, spotted sandpipers, herring gulls, and a mew gull among the winter visitants.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Berkeley, Mr. James Cahill, Miss Beverly Guirard; from San Francisco, Mrs. Nellie C. Dorn, Mrs. E. A. Funke-d'Egnuff, Mr. Kent D. Kessinger; from San Leandro, Miss Rita Daugirda. – MARJORIE N. WILSON, *Membership Chairman.*

BUY CHRISTMAS GIFTS AT AUDUBON STORE

Distinctive Christmas gifts may be purchased at the National Audubon Society's Conservation Resource Center, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. In addition to all the items listed in the Audubon Christmas Gift Catalog, the Berkeley Center has many books on the natural history of the Bay Area, California, and other Western regions. Visit the "browsing room" for interesting gift ideas. Shopping hours are 12 to 5, Monday through Friday, and 11 to 4 on Saturday. For descriptive folder and book lists please phone 848-4042.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, the wildlife sanctuary and nature education center jointly sponsored by the Golden Gate and Marin Audubon societies, is closed until March 1, 1966. Plan now to visit the Ranch in the early spring.

Funds are needed for the purchase of the added ridge acreage. Please send contributions to Audubon Canyon Ranch, Inc., P.O. Box 2113, San Francisco 94126.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANYON RANCH

The following gifts of remembrance were made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:

In Memory of:	*Gift of*:
Miss Carol Rigdon	Ida E. Logan
Mrs. Anna C. Leavens	Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Helmholz, Mrs. Margaret Owings, Mrs. Arthur E. Connick, Mr. and Mrs. William P. Wentworth, Blanche C. Rocca, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Lipman
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Halford Thorns	Virginia L. Short
William W. and Violet Brown	Mrs. Marjorie Walker Frisk
Bert Harwell-Nature Trail	Indian River Audubon Society
Mrs. Sophie Stuebgen	Berkeley Garden Club

— DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman.*

Golden Gate Audubon's Treasurer, Mrs. Alice Radcliffe, received a gift from Florence Minard in memory of Mrs. Anna C. Leavens for the benefit of the Nature Training Program at Aquatic Park, Berkeley.

AUDUBON CONVENTION DISCUSSES TIDELANDS

At the National Audubon Convention in Boston (October 1-6) Mrs. Donald H. McLaughlin, Secretary of the Save San Francisco Bay Association, discussed the problems facing the Bay in a piece-by-piece "fill" which has already destroyed one-third of the Bay within a century. Mrs. McLaughlin urged that fish and wildlife considerations be given equal weight with navigation interests in permit application decisions made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

One panel speaker was the General Counsel of the Army, Alfred B. Fitt, who admitted that the Army Department's permit responsibility was "an absolutely unsatisfactory method for making land-use decisions." He added that he was repelled by the notion that some distant federal official should make a judgment as to the proper use of the tidelands or the marshlands along the shores of Maine and Massachusetts or in San Francisco

Bay. The Department of the Army, which has authority over navigable water, finds it difficult, Mr. Fitt said, to reject permit applications when there is no interference with navigation.

Director of the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, John S. Gottschalk, stated that "the National crisis in preservation of coastal wetlands and estuaries must be resolved along four main courses: education, research, legislation, and coordination. An informed public is absolutely essential to the solution of this problem. However, first-class educational efforts must depend upon the results of research . . . and legislation remains a necessity to enable actions on behalf of the public good, over the longest period of time . . ." — *Audubon Leaders' Conservation Guide*, Oct. 15, 1965.

"CALIFORNIA TOMORROW" AND A NEW JOURNAL

Aiding the battle to overcome the destructive aspects of California's explosive growth is California Tomorrow — a non-profit, educational organization. The object is to inform and inspire thoughtful Californians about the forces of disorderly growth in our state, and to discover practical ways of turning them back. California Tomorrow is publishing a new quarterly journal, *Cry California*, which will be concerned with the total California environment.

Some of the titles for the first few issues are: "The Strategy of Wilderness Preservation" — "The Tahoe Crises: Any Way Out?" — "Garbage: What Can San Francisco Learn from San Diego?" — "The Virgin Redwood 'Surplus' " — "Monterey and Santa Barbara: How Beauty Has Paid Off" — "The Amenities vs. the Army Corps of Engineers". Editor of the new journal is William Bronson, author of *The Earth Shook, the Sky Burned.*

For annual dues of $9.00, members will receive the new quarterly journal and all California Tomorrow publications and current news bulletins about the special concerns of other conservation organizations. Members may also participate in seminar-field trips to be held in areas where state development problems and opportunities can be demonstrated. Executive Director of the organization is Samuel E. Wood, a former official of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior and a former staff director of California legislative committees in the conservation field. Further information may be obtained from California Tomorrow, 433 Forum Building, Sacramento, California 95814. Contributions are tax deductible.

TUCKER HUMMINGBIRD SANCTUARY OBSERVATIONS

As a volunteer at the Tucker Hummingbird Sanctuary, Modjeska Canyon, in the Santa Ana Mountains southeast of Los Angeles, Earl Sanders has been keeping a weekly record of birds he has observed. He kindly sent us a detailed tabulation of 46 species for the period of July 1 through September 30, 1965. Among the migrants seen only once were Costa's hummingbird on August 5 and black-throated sparrow on September 23. An early winter resident to arrive was Lawrence's goldfinch on August 26. Among the species observed for ten or more days during this period were the black-chinned hummingbird, spotted dove, ringed turtle dove, phainopepla, and hooded oriole.

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Audubon Canyon Ranch contributions	Send to Box 2113, San Francisco 947126		

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. **Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.**

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $8.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately $2.00 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California 94701 848-4042